CLAIMS:

(Currently Amended) A method of welding comprising:
 positioning a monomer which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by
 temperatures perduced produced during friction stir welding between surfaces to be welded together;
 and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a <u>corrosion barrier</u> sealant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein positioning the monomer further comprises: A method of welding comprising:

positioning a monomer, which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together;

partially curing the monomer before welding; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a sealant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer.

- 5. (Previously Amended) The invention of claim 4 wherein welding further comprises: completing the curing of the monomer.
- 6. (Previously Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein positioning the monomer further comprises:

applying an adhesive monomer.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein positioning the monomer further comprises: A method of welding comprising:

applying an adhesive monomer, and which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together.

partially curing the monomer before welding; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a sealant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer

9. (Previously Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein welding to cure the monomer further comprises:

polymerizing the monomer.

- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Previously Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 further comprising: applying heat to cure the monomer.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 11 wherein applying heat further comprises: A method of welding comprising:

positioning a monomer, which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together; applying heat in the form of laser energy to cure the monomer; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a sealant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer.

13. (Previously Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein welding further comprises: forming a lap joint.

-3-

14. (Previously Amended) The invention of claims 1 or 28 wherein positioning a monomer further comprises:

applying an elastomeric monomer.

15. (Previously Amended) The invention of claim 14 wherein positioning a monomer further comprises:

applying a fluoroelastomeric monomer.

- 16. 27. (Canceled)
- 28. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 1 further comprising: selecting a monomer through which a welded joint can be formed by friction stir welding without substantial degradation of the welded joint.
- 29. (New) A method of welding comprising:

 selecting a monomer through which a welded joint can be formed by friction stir welding without substantial degradation of the welded joint;

positioning the monomer, which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together;

partially curing the monomer before welding; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a sealant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer.

- 30. (New) The invention of claim 29 wherein welding further comprises: completing the curing of the monomer.
- 31. (New) A method of welding comprising:

-4-

selecting an adhesive monomer through which a welded joint can be formed by friction stir welding without substantial degradation of the welded joint;

applying the monomer, which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together; partially curing the monomer before welding; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a scalant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer;

(New) A method of welding comprising: 32.

selecting an adhesive monomer through which a welded joint can be formed by friction stir welding without substantial degradation of the welded joint;

positioning the monomer, which is at least partially cured without substantial damage by temperatures produced during friction stir welding, between surfaces to be welded together;

applying heat in the form of laser energy to cure the monomer; and

friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint and to form a scalant adjacent the welded joint between the surfaces by at least partially curing the monomer

- 33. (New) A method of welding comprising: selecting a monomer which forms a corrosion barrier when cured; positioning the monomer between surfaces to be welded together; and curing the monomer by friction stir welding at least portions of the surfaces through the monomer to form a welded joint surrounded by a corrosion barrier sealant between the surfaces.
- (New) The invention of claim 33 further comprising: 34. at least partially curing the monomer before welding.
- 35. (New) The invention of claim 34 wherein the monomer is an adhesive monomer.

PAGE 7/7 * RCVD AT 2/17/2006 7:13:26 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/28 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:1-310-203-7199 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-58

- 5 -